NCDWR Fish Kill Summary Report

Waterbody N. FORK CATAWBA RIVER

Location Near Marion NC

Total Fish Mortality

17300

Kill Number	Date Reported	Date Investigated	Time Investigated
AS15002	7/1/2015	7/2/2015	

County	HUC:	Latitude	Longitude
MCDOWELL	03050101	35.790806	-82.0234170

Species Reported

BROWN TROUT
DACE
DARTERS
FLAT BULLHEAD
NORTHERN HOG SUCKER
RAINBOW TROUT
REDHORSE SUCKER
SHINERS
SMALLMOUTH BASS
STONEROLLER
SUNFISH
WHITE SUCKER

Suspected Cause	Other Species Affected	Waterbody Type	Duration	Kill Area
Spill	FROGS	Fresh	24 hrs	3.9 miles

Tributaries Affected

LIMEKILN CREEK

Samples

Notes:

Commission staff was notified of the kill on the evening of July 1 and conducted a formal enumeration on July 2. The kill incorporated approximately 3.9 miles of the river. Staff visually identified and counted dead fish from three 100-meter segments within the fish kill reach.

An estimated 17,275 fish were killed within the affected reach of the North Fork Catawba River from the confluence of Limekiln Creek and the North Fork Catawba River downstream to Cannon Road . Species included Central Stoneroller, Warpaint Shiner, Whitetail Shiner, Bluehead Chub, Sandbar Shiner, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Roseyside Dace, Redbreast Sunfish, Bluegill, Smallmouth Bass, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, White Sucker, Notchlip Redhorse, Striped Jumprock , Northern Hogsucker, Flat Bullhead , Tesselated Darter, and Fantail Darter.

Responsible party was identified as Coats American, Sevier Facility. On the evening the fish kill was initially reported, investigators detected elevated pH levels (11+) and very low DO in an impoundment created by a beaver dam in the unnamed tributary (UT) to Limekiln Creek at a location adjacent to the Coats American WWTP. Subsequent investigation of the Coats American facility showed that plant staff were not aware of all stormwater drains around the facility draining to the UT. Floor drains in water filtration area (where caustic chemicals are used) which plant staff thought were connected to the WWTP were actually connected to the storm sewer (and eventually drained to the UT).